

# MANCHESTER PUNK FESTIVAL

2025



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PUNK FESTIVAL



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# WELCOME TO MPF2025

Welcome to – or welcome back to – Manchester Punk Festival. Ten years, who'd have thought it? Not even the most arrogant of us would have said we'd still be here if you'd asked us in 2015.

The MPF crew all had different journeys towards starting or becoming involved in this event. We were all friends beforehand but very much doing separate but similar things. When we look back, it probably felt inevitable we'd team up to try something else.


The wheels were really set in motion after a successful TNS anniversary event back in 2014. The idea that we could do something bigger and worthwhile whilst adopting the DIY approach got real. TNS had a history of releasing music and zines whilst also promoting local gigs. They reached out to Moving North and Anarchistic Undertones, who both had their own stuff going on, hosting monthly gigs and bigger events like Punx Inna Jungle and Manchfester. After talking, it quickly became apparent that we all had

a similar vision for the future of our promotions, and Manchester Punk Festival was very much at the top of that list.

Hosting this event has allowed us to book some of our favourite bands. We've seen smaller bands we like and work with flourish on bigger stages, and we've welcomed attendees and bands from countries so far away it doesn't even make sense, when we think about it. Bringing all of these people together is what it's all about. It feels a world away since Creeper and Boston Manor opened the first night in 2015, or the parties in places like Sound Control and Ducie Bridge that are no longer standing. They are memories we'll cherish forever.

We've navigated through some shitty situations over the years, so to be able to celebrate a ten-year anniversary is overwhelming and heartwarming. We had no idea of the importance people placed on the event until it got taken away in 2020 (lockdown, huh, remember that shit). Our return in 2022 was something





special and gave us the renewed enthusiasm we needed to crack on with the yearly party we've all come to love so much. Seeing so many of you descend on the city we live in will never get old.


We're a grassroots organisation that relies entirely on a wider team of amazing people to make this work. So many people give us their time and effort whilst asking for little in return, and without them, it would crumble fast. Massive shout-out to all of our volunteers, sound crew and stage managers for putting so much in. You are so important to what we do.

It's very important to us to try and use the platform each year to do some good. We're grateful to everyone who picked up the optional charity donation ticket. In 2024, we were able to donate £1,000 to Booth Centre and a total of £1,909 split between Salford & Solace Women's Aid, 0161 Community, Medical Aid for Palestinians and Manchester Central Foodbank.

2024 also saw us win our first national award, which is as mind-blowing as it is incredible. Towards the end of the year, we were nominated in three categories at the UK Festival Awards, and we won the award for Best Small Festival in the UK. For us, music and events have never been about competing, but to be nominated alongside much bigger and more experienced organisations and to come away with the award... Yes, it kinda felt good, if we're honest. It felt like a victory for the small people in the music industry. Thank you so much to everyone who helped get us there.

This year's edition features 138 sets, 13 comedians, six poets, six podcasts, nine afterparties, art, coffee, a beer exchange and our very first circus workshop. Try and explore as much of it as you can, and try out some acts you've never heard of. We bet you'll find your new favourite band.

Thank you wholeheartedly for letting us host your festival. Have a proper mint weekend x





# VENUES

This year, our core venues remain the same, but we've added two new spaces. The Union is our largest space and home to our wristband exchange, merchandise, festival info and record fair. Gorilla and Bread Shed are also large spaces that host our headliners.

You've told us how much you love the Pink Room at YES, so we have a full-day lineup and an afterparty in the Basement. Two stages in the same building will save on running around, and they have a buzzer system for food, which means you can watch a band while you wait.

YES Basement is replacing Zombie Shack. We're sad to lose the tiki bar with the spiral staircase; we know many of you loved sipping a massive cocktail whilst joining in the pit. It's been an MPF venue since the beginning, and it's where TNSrecords put on their first gig in 2004. Zombie Shack still exists as a pub, but it's no longer a space for live music.

We love Sandbar, but our podcasts, comedy and poetry stages have proved so popular that we struggled to fit everyone in! Instead, we will now host a higher capacity stage upstairs at The Salutation (the pub next door to The Union). They also do some smashing pub grub. We still highly recommend swinging by Sandbar for a pizza and a pint.

We'll continue to have info stalls at The Flour & Flagon (next door to The Bread Shed). They also serve food.

## RESPECT YOUR SURROUNDINGS

We're excited to welcome you all to our city, and we trust you'll all take good care of it.

Please remember that each venue has its own rules, and you can't carry drinks between them. In the last year, they've redeveloped All Saints Park (a.k.a. Busker's Park) and they've added some seating on the walking route between The Union and Bread Shed. This can be a great place to hang out, but please be mindful of other people that we're sharing the space with.

Please don't litter – all the venues have recycling facilities, and there are ample bins. The local authority is hot on cigarette butt fines, so please dispose of them properly rather than chucking them in the gutter.

Finally, please respect your fellow MPF'ers. We want everyone to feel welcome and safe at MPF.

Basically...

## DON'T BE A DICK

We don't do dickheads at MPF, so don't be one.



## KEEP YOURSELF SAFE

We recommend downloading the WalkSafe+ app. WalkSafe+ is a life-saving app that enhances personal safety. It enables users to pick safer routes home, as well as share them with family and friends so they can monitor their safe arrival, sending automatic alerts if they fail to reach their destination.

The WalkSafe+ app also shows the location of safe space premises and the live location of Street Angels and the Evening and Night Marshalls.

## DOWNLOAD THE MPF APP!

The MPF app is the best way to stay updated on the latest news all weekend long. You can view the full lineup in an interactive timetable, or create your own customised schedule featuring only the bands you're eager to see.

The app will even send you alerts 20 minutes before your selected bands take the stage, ensuring you won't miss them while you're busy catching up with people you haven't seen since last year.

If there are any changes throughout the weekend – like a stage reaching capacity or a last-minute change to the lineup – we'll announce them on the app. Additionally, the app includes a group chat and several sub-groups where you can connect with fellow punks.

## AFTERPARTIES

After the party, it's me and you! Pace yourself, because the party truly starts after the headliners. You have three afterparty venues to choose from: Bread Shed, YES and Rebellion.

The wildest aftershow is always at **Rebellion**, where this year we're hosting three full nights of spectacular one-off tribute sets – the bands begged us to add an extra night. Each 'cover' set is a tribute act put together by punk bands and (often) members of the MPF team. Every single cover act puts a ludicrous amount of effort into half an hour masquerading as their favourite band.

Friday kicks off with the triumphant return of **Chunderwall**, perfectly timed to cash in on Oasis's money-grabbing reconciliation. Chunderwall's 2025 incarnation features members of Blagged, Sadaxe, Vitriolic Response and, erm, MPF. It's basically the same as Oasis, but funnier and a foot taller, across the board.

Later, The Menstrual Cramps will deliver their homage to the woman who invented punk: **Avril Lavigne**. Emilia begged us to allow this to happen. This isn't the first time she's resorted to such desperation, but we enjoy teasing them so much that we let her work herself into a frenzy before, of course, enthusiastically agreeing.



Crostopaths will close Friday with a **Papa Roach** set that we are unbelievably excited for because, deep down, we are all just teenage moshers. Expect an *Infest*-focused set... or at least it better be, otherwise they just won't get paid.

Saturday's afterparty begins with the obvious and completely mandatory return of **Grafteoke**, an absolute stand-out highlight every year. The North East doesn't have a lot to shout about, not since Big Alan retired, but they do have the best wedding/party band of all time.

Following that, we have members of Modern Baseball and The Menzingers playing in the world's greatest **The Pogues** cover band, **Bar Dust**. How insane is that?! No sarcastic description required.

Finally, after their show-stealing tribute to The Hives last year, we had to insist that Grotbags and friends return. They will be donning leather jackets and silly haircuts, transforming Rebellion into CBGB as **The Ramones**.

On Sunday, we've only gone and bloody booked **The Prodigy**. Get your glow sticks ready for a 35-minute medley, featuring 17 tracks that span the band's career, from rave to punk and everything in between. Members of Nosebleed, Knife Club, Electric Press and MPF have put a genuinely silly amount of effort into putting this party together. One of them bought a lighting rig for it. Don't they have jobs?

Who could follow The Prodigy other than the mighty **Slipknot**? Or LipSkn0t, as they keep calling themselves. We can't tell you who's in this supergroup, but we can tell you that two of them have appeared in headline slots in recent years. Or, at least, we assume it's them - it could just be wristband blaggers in masks and boiler suits. Don't be left behind - if you maggots miss this, all hope is gone.

Closing out the weekend's tribute acts are punk legends **NOFX**. They'll be played by members of Old Chase, who played MPF last year, and Making Friends, who haven't played MPF yet... but they have moaned about it so much that we decided to book them for a cover set, rather than their own tunes, just to really annoy them.

While everyone's playing fancy dress over at Rebellion, the **Bread Shed** afterparties have garnered a more refined reputation akin to cult gatherings, although that's a subjective view.

Friday will feature sets from the old-timers **Raw Poo** and queer banjo violence trio **ALLDEEPENDS**. Then, prepare to gag at the realness of **Snatch Game**, the world's premier (and only) punk rock Ru Paul cover band, who will be hosting a late-night party. Prepare to lipsync for your life, hunty.



Saturday night at Bread Shed is a special deal for us. We're hosting a P-Rock party with **Bleach Brain**, **Stank Finger** and **WYRES** (ex-Fallsafe). If the channel influenced you as much as it did us, come and be a part of that early 00s spirit living on. More info below.

Sunday night kicks off with **Anti-Everything**, who have literally travelled from the Caribbean to play this event. Please go and show them a good time.

Our friends in **Burnt Tapes** and brand new **Minimal Faff** will see out the live sets before the **Pop Party For Punks** kicks off so you can finish the weekend off floating around!

**YES Basement** is the new home of our most intimate afterparty, previously held at Zombie Shack. These sweatbox nights have become synonymous with heavy tunes and/or unmissable sets, so on Friday, we're starting with both. Italian outfit **Carne** will be shaking YES to its foundations, before we get into the local mosh with raucous **Victim Unit** and **Feign**.

Saturday night will be slightly less screamy, but we imagine the pit will still be just as wild for French fast punks **Short Days**, who are out on the road with Jodie Faster. It doesn't get any faster. Our favourite punk 'n' rollers, **Batwölf**, will keep the party going late before we close with the raging feminist punk of **Helle**.

Sunday's afterparty gets us back onto the straight-and-narrow of proper hardcore punk. **Jawless** are outrageously heavy and **Wreaking Joy** bring us posi-hardcore straight from Dundee. **DeadWax** is the ultimate afterparty band, effortlessly blending hip-hop and punk. Another three bands that you don't want to miss – how are you going to choose your afterparty venue?

## CAPACITY

Just our usual friendly reminder that you have bought a ticket for a festival, rather than any of our particular acts. Capacity is limited at all venues. We have worked hard on schedules and clashes to try and ensure that there is always space at venues, but we cannot guarantee entry to any band. Get to the venue early if you simply cannot miss a particular band, and you won't be disappointed.



# P-ROCK PARTY

In an era of boy bands and pop music, the TV channels of the early 2000s didn't offer much for the 'alternative' music scene. Two south Londoners tried to change that, starting up their own music video channel: P-Rock. They soared above the top dogs until they tried to bring them down (bastards).

Some of us discovered P-Rock TV many years back, and it set us off on a path of discovering new music, particularly locally and domestically. It was a huge contribution towards where we are today, with our passion for the DIY music scene. For some of us, it was our introduction to DIY and the first time we became aware that we might be able to create something ourselves and 'compete' against the industry. For something so brief, the channel had a profound impact on many people, and nowhere is that more evident than at MPF.

A documentary was launched in late 2024 to tell the P-Rock story, which has since been touring around the UK with screenings. We urge you to check it out, especially if you watched the channel. It's a great snapshot of a wonderful period of time for live music.

We are unbelievably excited to welcome the P-Rock team to MPF2025 to host an afterparty. It's a bit of a full-circle moment. Make sure you get to Bread Shed on Saturday from 11pm where you'll be able to catch the wonderful Bleach Brain, Stank Finger and WYRES, before we see out the night with tunes from the P-Rock playlist.

Thank you, Alex, Mark, Russ and the rest of the P-Rock family, for being so enthusiastic about MPF and for coming to party with us on our anniversary.

"Because of the way the channel closed so abruptly, I never wanted to even talk about P-Rock as it just filled me with anger. That all changed when Alex, my daughter and an accomplished filmmaker, began researching to make a documentary about the channel. I was overwhelmed by not only the love that still existed for P-Rock but also how it had inspired so many to follow their own dreams in the alternative music scene.

In 2023, as the film began to take shape, the P-Rock doc team attended MPF, and I was truly humbled to meet and chat with so many P-Rock fans. It filled me with pride to hear how the channel had influenced them so positively. As plans begin to form for the future, it is a pleasure and honour to have a presence at MPF, a shining beacon of just how strong and tight the punk community is. Thank you to Tree and the team at MPF for making this happen; we have indeed all gone full circle. In the words of Russell Aldrich, my partner in crime at the original P-Rock TV, there's much, much more to come."

**Mark Shipman (P-Rock Founder)**



# CIRCUS WORKSHOP

The Circus House is hosting a fun and dynamic 90-minute circus workshop, where you'll explore the art of building a human pyramid and experiment with alternative acrobalance shapes. The workshop includes:

- A structured warm-up to get you moving
- Skill-building activities focused on teamwork, balance and coordination
- A cool-down session to wrap up safely

They'll also share some crowd surfing tips, although we don't recommend trying them when you're a) drunk or b) in an actual crowd! If numbers are low and crowd surfing isn't possible, they'll switch gears and dive into traditional handheld circus skills, ensuring everyone can get involved and have a great time.

This workshop suits beginners of all abilities, but we ask that you listen to your own body, as it's a long weekend! It's designed for ages 16+, however, anyone under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult.

The Circus House is a community interest social circus in Longsight, Manchester. Find them at [thecircushouse.co.uk](http://thecircushouse.co.uk).

**Saturday 12:00-13:30 @ Pink Room**



# SOBER SOCIAL

The Sober Social is back. It's a relaxed meet-up for sober or sober-curious folks; a chance to see friends and meet new ones.

This year's Sober Social will be hosted by our friends Jake and Colin. Whether you're trying to drink a bit less, or you've been teetotal for years, we want you to feel just as comfortable at MPF as everyone else. The Sober Social is a safe and welcoming space to socialise and chat with others without the pressure to drink.

**Saturday 13:00-14:00 @ Sandbar**



The Sober Social



# SLURP FEST

Manchester Slurp Fest is a new independent festival that celebrates the vibrant specialty coffee industry in Manchester and the North. We love what they're doing, so we've invited them to host a pop-up.

Join Slurp Fest founders Nat and Laura at Sandbar on Saturday afternoon. They'll be brewing some Slurp Fest coffee and talking about their Slurp Fest plans, with merch and trail maps to hand out. There'll even be some coffee samples for you to take home.

Manchester Slurp Fest is a grassroots organisation created for those who work in coffee, drink coffee, and appreciate coffee in all its forms. Their mission is to promote and highlight the fantastic cafés and coffee businesses of Manchester, ensuring that we all recognise and celebrate the exceptional brews the city has to offer. They will be hosting their second festival in November 2025.

**Saturday 14:00-16:00 @ Sandbar**

## GO MUG YOURSELF

Get fired up at MPF! This year, as a special treat, Go Mug Yourself hosts a mug-making and decorating pop-up. This is your unique opportunity to get messy, unleash your creativity, and take home a one-of-a-kind MPF souvenir.

Sit with Cass the Caricature Artist to immortalise your face in ceramic. Alternatively, you can have your own custom insults fired into permanence – whatever offensive poetry your heart desires, you can slap it on a mug. Perhaps you prefer animals to humans? You can create a cat cup, a pug mug, or a wonky goblin version of your beloved goldfish. You name it, Cass will sculpt it.

You can even get your hands dirty with your own slab-built DIY cups. Slap some clay together, smush it into something that holds liquid (hopefully), and they'll fire it up for you. It'll be ugly, but it'll be yours.

If you've already amassed a rather excessive collection of mugs (who hasn't?), then you can craft your own punk rock egg cup. A ceramic throne for your breakfast egg... or, if you're vegan (which, let's be honest, you probably are), balance a ball of tofu in it and pretend you're enjoying yourself.

Whether you want your ugly mug on a mug, a swearsy slogan to sip from in the office, or a tribute to your four-legged best mate – they've got you covered (in clay). All work will be fired and returned to you as fully functional, food-safe masterpieces – ready to dazzle, offend, or simply confuse your co-workers. Prices range from £20 to £35, depending on size and how hands-on you want to get.

**Friday & Sunday 14:00-17:00 @ Sandbar**



## GIGS AND FESTS CRAFT BEER EXCHANGE

If you love discovering new beers and breweries from around the UK and the world, we've got a treat for you! Our friend Christian Reed, a self-confessed beer nerd, had the bright idea of hosting our first ever beer exchange.

This is your chance to get involved! Bring along a few cans from your favourite local craft brewery (we recommend four cans, if you can) and exchange them for something intriguing that you may not have tried before. You might discover your new favourite beer, in between finding your new favourite bands.

Christian says he's found a lot of likeminded beer geeks in the UK punk scene, and he wanted to do something very DIY. "I have incredible pride in the beers produced in my area, and I am curious to know what amazing stuff is out there. Cheers!"

There will also be a guest brewer from Courier Brewing Co. who are taking over the taps at Sandbar. Enjoy some fresh local pints from the Manchester independent brewers, with beer names that might strike a chord with the DIY scene.

**Sunday 13:00-14:00 @ Sandbar**

## SIGNATURE BREW

Our good friends at Signature Brew are back at MPF to help keep us loose for the weekend. We're collaborating with them on a delicious hazy pale ale, aptly named 'A Hazy 10 Years'. Keep an eye out for it on draught at several of our venues!

We are very grateful for the support of such a cool independent business, and we love getting to hang out with them, watching some amazing bands and drinking beer that's actually nice. Please grab a can of theirs if you're drinking. Let's show them some support.

## THE RECORD FAIR

Head to The Union to find our annual record fair alongside band merchandise. We love to support our favourite independent labels and distros, and we hope you will too.

The massive **TNSrecords** distro will be available alongside MPF merch in the foyer of the Union, showcasing music from bands and indie labels across the globe, along with some snazzy merch. TNS started as a fanzine in 2003, becoming a record label in 2008. Based in Manchester, the label is part of the MPF collective and releases a diverse range of punk styles, from speed-punk to ska, from metal to folk - essentially anything they think sounds exciting. Their 130th release (Saint Lundi by Jodie Faster) is set to launch at this year's MPF.



In the Union Bar, you'll find Lockjaw and Serial Bowl. **Lockjaw Records** is an independent punk, hardcore, and metal label founded on a Do It Together ethos. They champion boundary-pushing bands, killer riffs, and a thriving DIY community. Boasting a roster that spans Europe and beyond, they've released nearly 100 records from over 50 bands, pairing music with merch like vinyl, coffee, and even trees.

**Serial Bowl Records** is an independent DIY record label and music collective based in Sunderland. Established in 2016, they have released over 50 albums from artists around the globe and have promoted upwards of 500 gigs. Expect new releases from Diaz Brothers, Red Alert, Spike Pit, Onlooker, House Proud, Tin Ribs, Slalom D, and Toronto Blessings. Up the punks!

## DESIGNERS

We like to invite different designers to create our merch every year. Our in-house designer, Millie, is a very valued part of our team and has done an awesome rebrand. Massive thanks to her for our fresh new logo and for all the short notice changes, and nearly a decade of making us look much slicker than we are. If it looks mint, Millie probably did it.

Our King Kong design was created by Krime, who is well known for his political art that explores themes of anti-capitalism, antifascism, and mutual aid. He has collaborated with Martha, Dry Socket, and Punitive Damage, among others. Find him on Instagram, Bluesky, and SubStack to check out his designs. @Krime\_1 | Krime.uk

Our cat design was created by Alex G Graphics. We've known Alex for years, and he immediately suggested a fierce cat design. Who doesn't love a fierce cat? Alex has done loads of gig and festival posters and worked with bands such as Alternative Tentacles, The Mary Wallopers, Off!, The Damned, Screaming Females, Wonk Unit, Crywank, Random Hand and MxDxNxX. @alexggraphics on Insta | onestepoutside@gmail.com



## MPF ON FILM

Go check out our YouTube channel @ManchesterPunkFestival for a collection of top-notch videos of the recent years of MPF! You can watch highlight reels and full band sets. All our in-house videos are created by Mark Richards, who is an exceptional photographer and long-time friend of the festival, and who helps us to document some of the hottest bands playing over the weekend.

Our very good friends at MPRV News have provided incredible coverage of MPF, and the DIY scene in general, for many years. In fact, they are also celebrating their tenth year in 2025. Their up-close and personal style really captures the energy and atmosphere of the gigs we all know and love. In recent years, they've also added Molly (Riot Garden) and Cassie (Sewer Cats) to their team. Check out MPRV's YouTube channel – it's one of the best documents of independent punk that you could imagine.

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who opted to add a charitable donation to their ticket order. Last year we raised almost £3,000, split across several charities. This year we are proud to support The Booth Centre

The Booth Centre is a community centre run for people affected by homelessness. They provide a warm welcome, an opportunity to belong, to gain a purpose and to rebuild lives. Their programme includes activities such as volunteering, creative projects and sports, as well as training and help to gain employment. They also support people to improve their health and wellbeing, access emergency accommodation, and secure and maintain a permanent home. The Centre is run in partnership with the people who attend, and they apply their skills and experience to influence strategic change.



# MPF 2025 DISCOUNTS

IDLE HANDS: 10% OFF YOUR BILL

GORILLA: 20% OFF FOOD

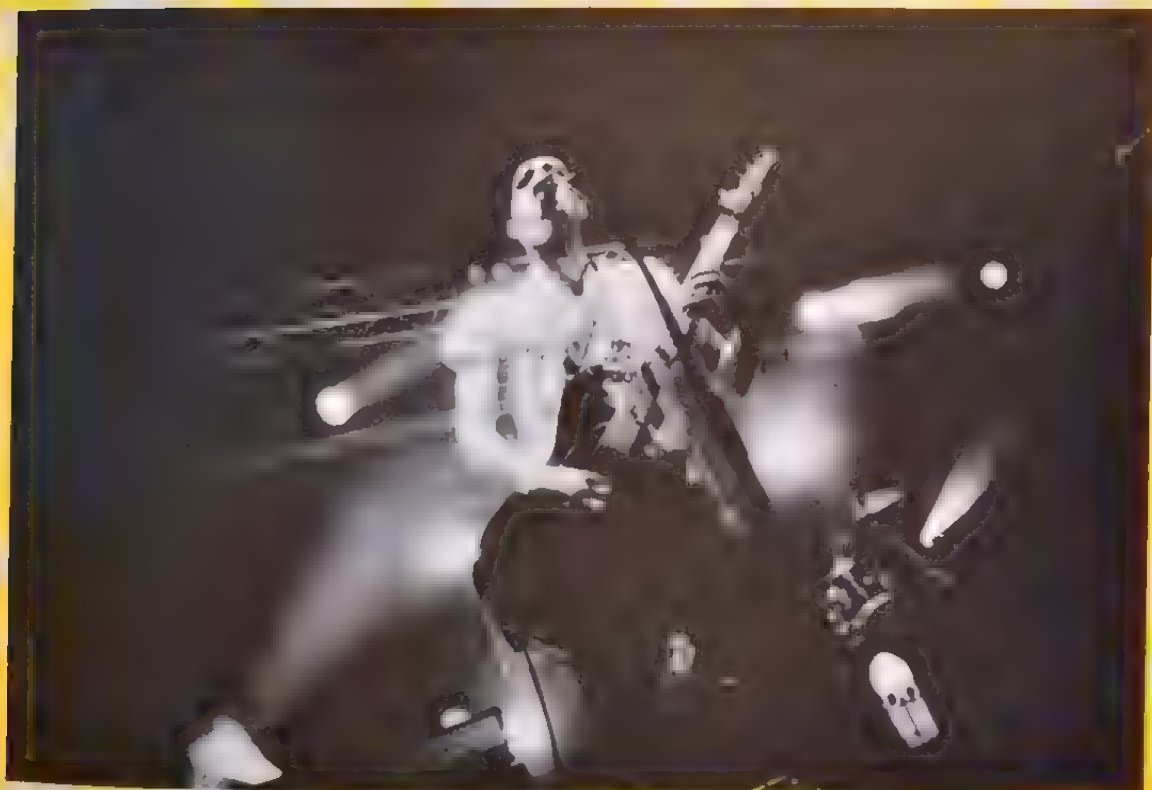
SANDBAR: PIZZA & A DRINK £12

FELL BREWING: 15% OFF YOUR BILL

TRACK BREWING TAPROOM: 10% OFF YOUR BILL

NORTH TAP ROOM: DISCOUNTS ALL WEEKEND

SURESHOT TAP ROOM: 10% OFF YOUR BILL



Pizzatramp at MPF2024. Photo by Scott Thompson.





Spaced at MPF2024. Photo by Gary Hough





Hot Water Music at MPF2024 Photo by Ben Meek





# MPF 2025 INFO STALLS

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(NEXT DOOR TO THE BREAD SHED)

2PM-6PM

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A UNION OF WORKING CLASS PEOPLE USING DIRECT ACTION TO  
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GULLIVERS  
MANCHESTER


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MINIMAL  
FAFF

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**JULY 10**

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**JULY 19**

**CREEKFACE, MARTHA, FRESH**

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**TICKETS FROM**

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# HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

On 3rd December 2024, a few of us headed down to Bristol for the annual UK Festival Awards ceremony. MPF had been shortlisted for three awards, which we all thought was bizarre, surreal and, if I'm honest, pretty funny. No one involved in MPF had ever considered being on the shortlist for one award, let alone three, but we thought it would be a laugh.

We were shortlisted for Best Grassroots Festival, Best Metropolitan Festival and Best Small Festival. None of us expected to win anything, but it crossed my mind that the first two weren't completely out of the question. Grassroots is kinda what we do: a DIY label and two DIY promoters setting up a collective to run a festival that books mostly small, independent artists... that's pretty grassroots, isn't it? Metropolitan also seems to describe us – a city centre event spread across multiple independent venues. Maybe there was a chance for that one?

But Best Small Festival? We thought there was no chance. The 'small' category covers any festivals between 1,000-10,000 capacity, so we were up against some events that are much bigger and better-known than us. I'd heard it was actually the most competitive award, as most festivals fall into this category. It was also one of the last awards to be announced, one of the big ones. The odds seemed stacked against us. Whilst at the awards, we saw the Innovation Award go to the 'Chevron

Stage at Rockstar Energy Presents Reading and Leeds Festival' and the Brand Activation Award (still not really sure what that means) going to 'L'Oréal Paris at Boardmasters'. The impostor syndrome felt real. Why were we even in that room?

It honestly didn't matter to us if we won anything. We went to the awards to have a good time, and we knew we'd carry on doing MPF regardless... but it was lovely to have this recognition.

Despite not massively caring if we won anything, I'd be lying if I said there wasn't a bit of disappointment when we didn't win the first two awards. I think the others felt the same. By the time Best Small Festival was announced, we'd mostly switched off – we were paying more attention to the table wine. So, when our name was read out, it was a moment of pure joy that I'll simply never forget.

Since the award, I have spoken to many people who volunteer or attend MPF, and the overriding sentiment to come from those conversations is the sense of investment everyone has in MPF. People felt like we'd all won something – the entire community. And for me, that's what makes MPF so special. It's about all of us. Our whole scene getting this little bit of recognition is so lovely.

The biggest achievement of MPF is that we exist. We exist without sponsorship and without huge names. We have managed to build a space where people from all around the world can meet, share ideas,

and treat each other with respect and care. We also have a lot of fun. That is beautiful

It's impossible not to reflect on your own personal journey after something like this happens, so I wanted to share some thoughts. Obviously everyone else in our collective has their own route to MPF, but this is mine

I began organising gigs in the late '90s in my hometown of Stafford. One of the first thoughts that flashed through my mind after we were announced was a memory of a few of us, including my late friend, Ian Sheridan, carrying a PA (kindly lent to us for free by Eric from Guitar & Son) across Stafford to a free gig we were putting on at The Firkin.

I moved to Manchester in 2001, started That's Not Skanking Fanzine in 2003, and then the TNS band nights in 2004. I met Bev in 2005 when he drove us on the first Revenge of the Psychotronic Man tour.

Hours of chatting in vans led to TNSrecords starting in 2008. Things built slowly... very slowly. And for much of this time, many people didn't take what we were doing too seriously. Maybe they still don't? But we believed in the music we were releasing and cared passionately. We were also very stubborn and refused to admit defeat. In 2014, we filled Sound Control for our ten-year anniversary gig. People had travelled

from outside the UK, and we suddenly felt a sense that others also cared about what we were trying to do

The next logical step for us was MPF. We had (still have) huge respect for Moving North and Anarchistic Undertones, so combining our crowds for an independent festival seemed like a great idea. The growth of MPF has also been slow, with plenty of hurdles that keep us awake at night that perhaps most people don't know about. But, you're worth it. (That's a call back to L'Oréal Paris winning a festival award, by the way.)

We were told that the lovely things our audience said about MPF was a major factor in us winning this award, so thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We truly believe it's an award for everyone invested in this event, the whole community.

I'm an emotional guy sometimes, and every year, I have a few minutes to myself watching a band soundchecking at The Union and feel myself welling up. I did the same after the award was announced.

Carrying that PA through Stafford, or 17 people coming to the first TNS gig in 2003, seems a long time ago, but still seems so familiar.

It has been one hell of a journey, and it's not over yet.

**Words: Andy Davies**

**WE TRULY BELIEVE IT'S AN AWARD FOR EVERYONE  
INVESTED IN THIS EVENT, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.**



## MAKING MPF ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

Throughout the ten years of Manchester Punk Festival, we've been proud to say that our doors have been open to everyone. As one of our thousands of supporters, whether you travel across oceans, cover miles of road, or simply walk around the corner in the city centre, we believe in the ethos that punk is for all, and where barriers exist, we must break them down.

We have, therefore, always strived to provide the best possible experience for those with accessibility needs. We have continually reassessed and considered potential changes to our format and processes to provide a more comfortable experience. We know that there is still room for improvement, but we hope that we're heading in the right direction. That's why we're excited to announce the following changes to the accessibility arrangements for this year's Manchester Punk Festival:

- We've moved our Zombie Shack lineup to the basement of YES. A lift can take you from kerb level to The Pink Room, Basement or bar – you'll find it at the Pritchard Street entrance
- We've improved our accessible wristbands, to help you get the support you need faster
- We're introducing accessible wristband collections
- We're offering a free carer's ticket for anyone requiring a companion

Also, for the first time, there is a single point of contact for information on accessibility at the festival, as we seek to streamline and improve the delivery of accessibility and the dissemination of accessibility information. It is hoped that these changes make the festival even more accessible than ever before, as we seek to start our second decade with a bang. Therefore, please let us introduce John Porter, who will be taking up the role of MPF Accessibility Coordinator. Here is a quick introduction from John!

Hi MPF! I'm John and I'm a 35-year-old music lover with cerebral palsy. I'm delighted to be asked to help Manchester Punk Festival with their accessibility policies and processes, and I can't wait to get started.

I'm a strong believer in making the live music experience accessible for everyone, as being at live music events is one of the times I feel the most alive. I'm sure it's the same for all of you, but the freedom to see great music in great venues with great people is one of the things that makes the tougher days brighter.

I'm a lifelong music lover, with a particular passion for ska and punk. I'm absolutely devoted to East Bay Punk and aspire to eventually visit 924 Gilman Street! Thanks largely to MPF and related events, I've also been struck by the sheer talent in the underground, both in the UK and across the world, and these days I also write about it. You might have seen my stuff published in either Spill Magazine, New Noise Magazine, or Emerging Rock Bands Magazine.

I wanted to get involved with the festival because it's a wonderful event organised by great people. It's one of my favourite times of the year, a weekend of tremendous music and great comradeship. With your help, I want to make it the best it can be and continue to improve it from its already high bar.

Most importantly, I WANT TO SEE AND HEAR FROM YOU! So, if you have any access needs, comments, questions, or suggestions, contact me at [accessibility@manchesterpunkfestival.co.uk](mailto:accessibility@manchesterpunkfestival.co.uk)

Don't be shy – we WILL find a way to make your Easter weekend unforgettable.

Come join us in the pit!

John.



# REMEMBER THE SOUND CONTROL STAIRS?

I've been fortunate enough to have attended every single Manchester Punk Festival. I'm also in the very unique position of having reviewed each festival for Colin's Punk Rock World. Knowing that MPF is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2025, I thought it would be interesting to look back over the past festivals and see what has changed over those ten years.

Looking at the first lineup poster and then going through them all up until the present day, it's clear that one of the biggest changes is the number of bands that play the festival. I won't count the exact number of bands – who has the time for that? It's clear that the number of acts has easily doubled over the past ten years, but the lineups have always remained of the highest quality. You might also notice that the first MPF was mostly UK DIY bands. As the festival has grown, there have been more international acts appearing but that DIY core has always remained.

There are a couple of reasons that MPF has been able to add all these extra bands over the years. Firstly, they've extended the festival from one evening and one full day to three full days plus a warm-up show. They've also started to use more venues for the festival. MPF 2015's home was Sound Control, a multi-floored venue which was taken over by the punks for the day. Across the road was the Thirsty Scholar pub, which housed the acoustic stage. I always find it amusing when people moan about the walk between The Union and Gorilla – they clearly didn't have to tackle the compact Sound Control stairs several times a day at the early MPFs. Unfortunately, Sound Control has now been turned into student flats.

The Union has since become the festival's main base of operations. Using The Union coincided with the decision to move the festival date to Easter weekend every year. The larger venue enabled MPF to meet the demand for bigger bands, as its reputation

grew and more punks from all around the world were buying tickets. The festival's venues are now all spread out around the Oxford Road area of Manchester, rather than being contained in one building. I always enjoy the walk between venues and bumping into friends along the way, it always adds to the festival's community spirit.

Not a festival to rest on its laurels, over the years they've also added a poetry and comedy stage, podcasts, record fairs... all have been great additions. They've also expanded the styles of punk bands they book - there's so much more ska booked now than in the early days of the festival! Most importantly, they've made a huge effort to make the festival as

inclusive as possible, by ensuring plenty of bands from diverse backgrounds play. Last year, MPF gave stage time to a lot of younger bands, helping to ensure the future of the scene.

The biggest change for me personally is the sheer amount of friends I get to see at the festival now. On my first visit to MPF, I didn't know a soul. Ten years later, I can go to any of the venues, at any time of the day, and bump into a friend and have a lovely time with them. And on the rare occasion that I don't know anyone, there will be someone there who can become a new friend, as that's the spirit of Manchester Punk Festival. Here's to the next ten years!

**Words: Colin Clark**

# HERE'S TO THE NEXT TEN YEARS!



# THE RESTARTS

*Having appeared at the first MPF, The Restarts will achieve veteran status at this year's festival. Before this year's performance, they plan to tour Central America and afterwards take a break, to allow one member to prepare for a court appearance. Richard Cubesville catches up with Kieran and Robin to discuss punk rock in turbulent times.*

Since The Restarts played at the first MPF ten years ago, the UK has been on a political rollercoaster, having seen six Prime Ministers and two monarchs in that time. "It feels like a long time ago since we first played," says guitarist/singer Robin, "I had hair back then. In fact," he adds while running his hand over his shaven head, "You could say the Tories made me lose my hair."

Having lived through a turbulent political era, it would be easy to sink into nihilistic rage. I ask the band if they find themselves naturally drawn to the gloomier side of life when they're writing lyrics. "I wouldn't say the gloomiest side," says bassist/singer Kieran. "It's kinda like the more realistic side. If you're not angry, you're not paying attention."

The Restarts' songs mix personal with political, citing places, people and life events, not least in their song, *A Dark Day in September*, from their *Uprising* album, which combines reported news with real-life experiences of Calais migrant camp, the 'jungle'. I ask Robin how it felt to become involved in bigger world events when he visited the camp. "You're actually making it happen," he says. "I think everyone who was there made a small difference to someone's life. Someone said, 'We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone,' and another person at the camp said it was the ultimate way of exercising democracy."

The Restarts will take the stage at MPF fresh from a tour of two countries not usually on their radar – Mexico and Colombia. "We played Tijuana years back, but it didn't really count," Kieran explains. "It was a very small gig. The police came and stole all the money, then we got chased over the US border by irate border guards." He adds that the band is excited about the prospect of playing Colombia again: "Bogotá is quite a popular gig spot, and people are super appreciative – it was our favourite gig of our 2018 South American tour."

Following MPF, the band plans to pause gigging to allow Robin to prepare for a court case. He is one of the original eight defendants of the Palestine Action movement. The case relates to direct action

conducted during the campaign's first seven months, which targeted several UK-based factories and offices of Israel's largest arms manufacturer, Elbit Systems. The first trial of the #ElbitEight resulted in a hung jury, and the Crown Prosecution Service has asked for a retrial, which will begin in June. "I don't know what the outcome will be," he says, "but I'll cross that bridge when I get to it."

"MPF is one of the last gigs we're going to do before we hear the outcome," Kieran adds. "We're going to let Robin prepare and

then just deal with whatever we're presented with."

Robin will hear the outcome of his six-week trial in July. When you see The Restarts this year, give him a wave and a cheer. In our conversation, he remains relaxed and philosophical about the future. "I've been out on bail for the last three years," he says. "If I do go to prison, I'll probably be writing new songs there." He pauses and adds: "Do you think they would let me have a guitar?"

**Words: Richard Cubesville**



**YOU  
COULD  
SAY THE  
TORIES  
MADE  
ME LOSE  
MY HAIR.**



# FAST BLOOD

"Absolute fucking chaos," says guitarist Dave Hillier. It's an apt description for Fast Blood, a Newcastle-based band that blends punk, hardcore, and shades of '90s indie and emo into a sound that's both unpredictable and unmistakably their own.

Their debut album, *Sunny Blunts*, is a multi-faceted beast – rooted in punk and hardcore, infused with plenty of emo and indie influences. Hillier describes each Fast Blood track as distinct yet cohesive, but when pushed to pick a favourite, he lands on *Salvation*. "It's super catchy and melodic, but still fast, unrelenting, and goes pretty fucking hard," he says. "Abi's vocal performance on it is unreal – she sure knows how to write a hook. We're lucky to have her."

Hillier plays alongside Kris Brunsden (bass), Abigail Barlow (vocals), and Dave Allen (drums), who all met through the North East's DIY gig scene. Hillier and Allen go back over 20 years, having played in bands together long before Fast Blood came into existence. In Hillier's list of albums that shaped Fast Blood's style, it's easy to see where their unique sound originates. They've drawn on staple punk albums like *Mush*, *Milo Goes to College* and *Caution*, alongside classic emo like *Do You Know Who You Are?*, iconic grunge albums including *Nevermind* and the bluesy soft rock of *Rumours*.

You may have caught Fast Blood supporting Fucked up their recent UK tour. "[The Caves in Edinburgh] is probably the most stunning venue I've ever set foot in, let alone played," says Hillier. Hidden beneath Edinburgh's Old Town, The Caves forms part of the 18th-century South Bridge substructure; "It's like playing inside history," Hillier also recommends checking out The Grove in Newcastle. "This place has its shit together," he says. The band has played here multiple times, and it never disappoints. "The room is class, the sound is always spot-on, and when you see Phil, the in-house engineer, you know the night's going to run smoothly." The only downside? Hillier, who's coeliac, can't enjoy the venue's legendary pizza. But according to the rest of the band, it's really fucking good.

When asked for a funny band story, Hillier delivered: "Once upon a time (last year), Abi brought a stool sample to her GP surgery. The receptionist was confused because no one had actually requested it." That's one way to make a solid first impression, I guess.

Catch Fast Blood at MPF2025 – expect chaos on (and off) the stage!

**Words: Lara Robs**



**ABSOLUTE  
FUCKING  
CHAOS**



# FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

*If you catch Follow Your Dreams this weekend, you might recognise frontperson Kaz – she and her husband, Big Hands, work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure MPF's smooth running. Richard Cubesville talks to her about DIY culture and asks what takes a person from the front of the crowd to fronting the band?*

"I think it just kind of happened," Kaz explains of her ten-year involvement with MPF. "Me and Big Hands originally helped with the merch – to get things a little more organised – and then we just fell into it." Kaz's varied role includes organising volunteers, sorting out merchandise, stocking the green rooms and ensuring people are where they need to be. "It's very much hands-on over the weekend," she says.

Kaz says she was a relative latecomer to DIY punk. "I didn't really go to DIY punk gigs until I was in my early twenties," she says. "The first was organised by TNS. I remember recognising Andy (of MPF, TNSrecords and Knife Club) – he had been my teacher at college. I got talking to him and came to more gigs. I met loads of like-minded people in the DIY scene."

I met Kaz when I moved to Manchester and went to local DIY gigs – she was one of those people who was always at the front while the band played. I asked her if, in the early days, she had felt intimidated by the dancing. "I'm a firm believer in getting to the front, especially as a woman," she says, "because a lot of women were scared to get to the front, with people crashing into one another. But when you get into it, you realise it actually isn't as ruthless as it looks. And my female friends would also come to the front – at every gig I was surrounded by women. So yeah, I got immersed in it."

Follow Your Dreams arose from the ashes of Stoke/Manchester ska-core band Rising Strike. Watching their early gigs, it looked like Kaz took to fronting a band like a duck takes to water. I asked her if it was as smooth a transition as it looked. "I never thought of myself as a singer," she admits. "But I saw more and more people getting onstage, especially women." Kaz agreed to go along to a rehearsal, she says, feeling a lot of trepidation. "I think there's a real vulnerability about letting yourself go," she says. "But I already knew the guys and was comfortable around them – they made it a really safe space for me. The more I did it, the more I thought, 'This feels fucking great – I'm just going to scream at people.' And I felt great for days afterwards. There have been loads of times when people have said, 'I can't believe you've not done this before.' To me, that's a massive compliment."

Kaz says she took advice and inspiration from other women in the D.Y. scene, such as Zoë of Casual Nausea and Knife Club. "We are close friends, and she's somebody I really look up to in the music scene," Kaz says. "She's an incredible vocalist, and I spoke to her quite a lot about it early on." What advice would Kaz give to anyone considering the step from

audience to band? "You've just got to get up there and have a go," she says. "You might like it. And if you keep doing it, your confidence will grow, and you will get better. But if you don't like it, you've not lost anything – you can get back down to the front."

**Words: Richard Cubesville**



Photo by Cassandra Lilly, MPF2024

**YOU'VE JUST GOT TO GET UP  
THERE AND HAVE A GO.**



# BELVEDERE

Skate-punk: there is more to it than the suffering of 1988 and latter screams of wilhelms, spilt melonballs, and efficiently belvedere-d itineraries. Who better to ask about skate-punk than Steve Rawles, of returnees, Belvedere? A band born in the genre's 'boom'. "We started in late 1995," Steve starts. "While the boom was going on for the bigger bands and labels, we were still trying to find our style and our voice. I don't think we were actually very good until somewhere around 1999-2000."

Before that, though, the genesis Everyone has that album or that band. For Steve, Dead Kennedys were catalytic but every spark needs fuel to proliferate. "I got No Control by Bad Religion and my path was set," he says. Canadian bands also continue to play a key role for him. "DOA, SNFU and Propagandhi were the three bands that were important to me, personally. In the mid to late '90s, we would see a lot of our peers' show posters like Choke and Moneen. Our three bands played in every small town across the country, trying to push ourselves as musicians. A short time later, you would see Protest The Hero and Alexisonfire taking things in a different direction. It was wonderful to see."



Steve's enduring passion for skate-punk boils down to its continual growth. "[Skate-punk is] all about pushing yourselves as musicians and songwriters. Many of the bands I like in this genre put out a record that just blows away everything they've done before. I always joke that every time Propagandhi puts out a record, everyone goes, 'Ah shit, back to the drawing board!'"

"If you're looking to recreate your last record, then it's easy to fade away and lose people's interest," Steve continues. "I've always known punk to be politicised and socially conscious. It needs to move forward and be more inclusive, including being more safe for everyone at the shows."

Many see the mid-to-late '90s as the forerunner to the abundant technicality of the sound now. "[We were] trying to be more technical and aggressive," Steve remarks, explaining why Belvedere expanded their listening outside of punk rock. "In Calgary, where there wasn't much of a

music industry, we had to start touring... and touring... and touring until we were exhausted. This lasted right up until we broke up in 2004."

However, that wasn't the end. 2016 and 2021 would see revitalisation for Belvedere. "We keep swinging. We keep trying to be nice and really enjoy seeing the world. This feels like a dream in a lot of ways. We exist because of our friends and fans. A lot of people have given so much love and attention to this band in so many ways. We can play in 40+ countries, and people welcome us with open arms.

"Through the last 35 years, I've watched punk morph into many different sub-genres, diversify, and progress both musically and lyrically. What inspires me now are all the people who continually work with love for this kind of music. The bands, the promoters, the festival bookers, the fans... people give a shit. It's not a hobby, it's life."

**Words: Matt Speer**

# IT'S NOT A HOBBY, IT'S LIFE.



# OI POLLOI

*On the cusp of their 45th anniversary, Oi Polloi delve into their roots, influences and Gaelic language anarcho-punk. Richard Cubesville reports.*

Glancing at this year's MPF lineup, two things single out Oi Polloi: having formed in 1981, they're the longest-running band to play over the weekend; also, I can't spot another band that has sung and recorded in Gaelic – their discography contains two albums and an EP purely in the language.

I catch up with singer and permanent member Deek and ask him which bands inspired him to take up the DIY mantle. "Very definitely the Cockney Rejects," he replies. "Our original guitarist and I were really into them and bonded over this. When I first heard them, I thought, 'This guy is not even making an attempt at singing – he's just shouting.' And it sounded fucking brilliant. During music lessons in school, the teacher would go around the class, and everyone had to sing a couple of lines in front of the other 30 kids – it was a fucking nightmare. I hated it. The Rejects were a revelation."

Shortly afterwards, Deek continues, the teenage bandmates discovered anarcho-punk progenitors, Crass. "Our guitarist wrote to them," he says, "they really opened our eyes. We still loved Oi! music, but our ideological influences came from

bands like Crass and Discharge. We've always preferred smaller DIY gigs, benefits and festivals, where politics plays an integral part – where the bands all have something important to say."

A standout moment in Oi Polloi's 44-year history was the release of their 2006 LP, *Ar Ceòl Ar Cànan Ar-A-Mach*, which they sang completely in Gaelic. The album was a perfect storm of influences: musically informed by Oi!, anarcho-thrash, metal and prog, lyrically raging against global capitalism, and using Gaelic as a medium. "We have to emphasise that our singing in Gaelic has nothing to do with some weird patriotism or nationalism or anything," Deek explains. "It's about respectful linguistic human rights and the intrinsic value of diversity – thinking globally, but acting locally. I would say it's a disgrace that in your own country there are place names in that country's language that not only do you not know what they mean, but you can't even pronounce."

*Ar Ceòl...* and its follow-up *Dùisgl*, Deek explains, challenged an established view of Gaelic as an antiquated museum piece. "We want to make it a living language," he says, "that's why we sing songs in Gaelic about things like open source software – trying to make it, dare I say, sexy."

If the MPF audience expects a stern-faced political diatribe, they've probably got the wrong band – expect audience participation and plenty of (literally) anarchic humour.

"You want to give people a good time," Deek says. "You want to foster a sense of togetherness and solidarity to make it a general positive experience. If people have enjoyed the gig, bought some records or downloaded stuff and listened to it, they may think about it and get the ideas we're putting across."

As well as being the longest-running band in this year's lineup, Oi Polloi are also festival veterans, having appeared in MPF's second year. What does Deek expect this time around? "It's interesting for us because the festivals we usually play are crust, anarcho-punk or anti-fascist Oi!-type ones," he says. "But MPF has a lot of different bands – many are new to us, which is great. And it's great getting across to a different crowd of people. Sometimes people come up to us and say, 'I've never heard you before – you weren't what I expected, and that was really good fun.' That's brilliant for us."

**Words: Richard Cubesville**

**YOU WANT  
TO FOSTER  
A SENSE OF  
TOGETHERNESS  
AND SOLIDARITY  
TO MAKE IT  
A GENERAL  
POSITIVE  
EXPERIENCE.**





# RECOMMENDATIONS

Usually, we go out and ask a wide range of people who they're excited to see at MPF. As this is our ten-year anniversary, ~~we were lazy~~ we decided to switch things up and ask the in-house MPF team for their hot tips.

## **Tree (AU/MPF)**

Waterweed, Anti-Everything and Relents have travelled a long way to be here (Japan/Trinidad & Tobago) so please go and show them a good time. My friends in Sadaxe are playing too, so go watch them.

## **Kieran (Moving North/MPF)**

Go and watch GIRLBAND! if you like Tom Petty and Gaslight Anthem. Go and watch False Reality if you like UKHC. Go and watch Throwing Stuff because Onlooker are on after them and you'll want a good spot.

## **Bev (TNS/MPF)**

Take the opportunity at MPF to catch bands that have travelled from abroad who you won't usually get the chance to see. So many great options, but you should check out Jodie Faster and Short Days who are on tour together from France, as well as Nexø and Forever Unclean joining us from Denmark. Don't miss all the TNS family playing as well!

## **Andy (TNS/MPF/Knife Club)**

You can take it as given that we love all the TNS bands, but Electric Press on the main stage is something to celebrate. Not only are they one of the most innovative bands on the lineup, they also represent the younger side of the scene, which we need to give a platform as the rest of us get old. Make sure you're in early on Friday for GLU, their new record is mint. Helle are also well worth your time.

## **Henry (MPF Poetry)**

Folk and punk. Two genres making sweet love. ALLDEEPENDS will fill the void with more voids. Trust Fund will bring a little sad shine. Franz Nicolay will make me happy my whole life.

## **Danny (AU/MPF/Fair Do's/ Blagged)**

Make sure you catch the Italian HC beasts, Carne, coming all the way from the land of focaccia and panzerotti. Local melodic newbies, Minimal Faff, will definitely turn some heads.

### **Mille (MPF Design)**

My recommendations are: Perp Walk, they give me Ceremony vibes and I love that! Broadway Calls write absolute anthems and haven't played the UK in forever and, of course, Throwing Stuff for some chaos!

### **Big Hands (MPF Logistics/Knife Club)**

I strongly suggest you *don't* bother with the following: Faintest Idea (they probably won't turn up in time anyway), Pizzatramp (unless you want to just watch someone talk shit for half an hour), Batwölf (their guitarist is a terrible driver and will be lucky to make it off the ferry), and Knife Club (they're only playing because they book themselves).

### **Tom (AU/MPF)**

Don't faff about, because there is nothing minimal about Abergaz and No More Idols, they are true warriors of the European punk scene. Our good friend, Captain Hotknives, always brings joy to everyone's day so go catch him. Whatever you do and whoever you see, have a bloody good time. Where the fuck are Wadey?

### **Sarah (MPF Programme/Artist Liaison)**

If I could only see one band all weekend, it'd be Forever Unclean – catchy, clever, joyful Danish skate-punk-with-actual-skateboards. Catch WYRES on Saturday; they sound massive, and they're massively underrated. Watch Our Lives In Cinema if you love Jeff Rosenstock, and Prey if you love having your eyeballs torn out.

### **Red (MPF Comedy)**

I have decided to put all my eggs in one basket. Single Mothers are one of my all-time favourites. Saw them support The Bronx ten years ago. A triumph of Canadian hardcore.

### **Kaz (MPF Logistics/Follow Your Dreams)**

If you can, go and watch False Reality (London HC), Period Drama (spooky, queer, emo punk), Sadaxe (massive riffed punk with a nod to 70s rock and roll) and of course my band, Follow Your Dreams (fast, angry, dissonant punk that's deliberately weird). Have fun!

### **John (MPF Accessibility)**

As ever, the beauty of MPF is its variety – so while I'm looking forward to some pure pop-punk like Broadway Calls and singing my heart out to The Menzingers, I also can't wait to see newer acts like Period Drama, Helle and The Empty Page.



# THE MPF COMEDY STAGE

## HOSTED BY RED REDMOND

Manchester Punk Festival's Comedy Stage returns for 2025! It's been a proud staple of the MPF lineup since 2018, and the perfect place to relax and recharge in between circle pits. As ever, this stage has been carefully curated by **Red Redmond** (Punk Rock Elite podcast), so expect another side-splitting showcase of cutting-edge stand-up comics, local legends and returning fan favourites.

**Andrew O'Neill**, MPF's most requested comedian, returns with an exclusive sneak peek at their brand new tour show: *A History of Punk Rock*. This follows on from the tremendous underground success of their previous show, *A History of Heavy Metal*, described by living legend Alan Moore as "a comprehensive landmark analysis of an enormous area of music ... A loud and thoroughly engrossing love story." They are hot off the heels of recording their own series for BBC Radio 4, plus recent credits on *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*, *Saxondale* and *Good Omens*. This is a genuine contender for highlight of the weekend.

**Eddie French** and **Katie Mitchell** are also back by popular demand. Eddie French is the co-host of the Punk Rock Elite podcast, currently celebrating over 25,000 downloads with past guests including Frank Turner and Karina Deniké (NOFX). Eddie will perform their underground hit *Poser* – a stand-up show all about punk rock and gender dysphoria. Katie Mitchell performs her latest festival show, *Spine Hygiene\**, which is largely considered to be one of the very best stand-up shows specifically about back pain ever performed. \*Please bring your own lumbar support.

New Zealand's finest comedy export **Sully O'Sullivan** will also be on hand to host the weekend's events. He joins us fresh from a whirlwind world tour of his critically acclaimed show, *A Complete Idiot's Guide to New Zealand*.

Northern comedy legend **Mick Ferry** makes his MPF debut this year. He is one of the most sought-after compères and headliners in the country, bringing almost 30 years of experience to the MPF stage. **Dean Coughlin**, the co-host of the *Mild High Club Podcast*, will also make a special appearance, fresh from a recent tour support slot with Adam Rowe and Paul Smith. We are also joined by Canadian comedian **Evan Desmerais** – the founder of Manchester's iconic 7-days-a-week DIY institution, *Creatures Comedy Club*.

Left: Maxine Wade; Right: Thick Richard



Local spoken-word legend **Thick Richard** is back! Manchester's most loved potty-mouthed punk poet performs his signature batch of well-crafted wordplay. He's the presenter of BBC Radio 6 Music's *Beat of the Day*, he's been published alongside John Cooper Clarke, and supported Kae Tempest on tour. A must-see for any fan of off-kilter cabaret.

One-half of *Dead Men Talking* podcast, **Rob Mulholland** returns alongside the founder of award-winning Trapdoor Comedy, **Tony Basnett**. Together, they are two of the most in-demand acts of the northern comedy circuit. BBC New Comedy Award semi-finalist **Maxine Wade** brings her unique brand of leopard-print-clad comedy to the afternoon's proceedings.

Following a spectacular debut last year, we can't wait to invite Manchester's premier transgender jokester back to MPF. You can expect daft jokes and sillier songs from **Jenny Hart**, one of the UK's most exciting festival favourites.

We can't wait to bring you another wild weekend of hilarious nonsense. Join us for two back-to-back afternoons of glorious comedy that's raw, real, and ridiculously funny.



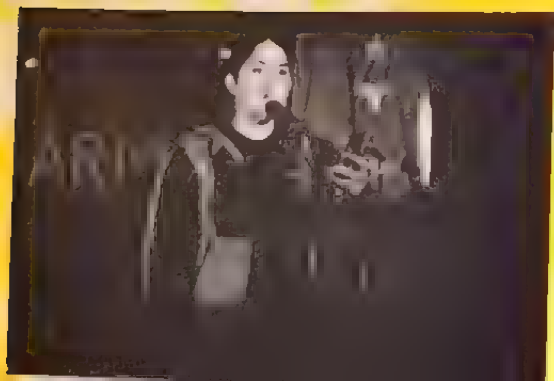
# THE MPF POETRY STAGE

HOSTED BY  
HENRY RABY

Hi – I'm Henry Raby. Scrawny punk poet and admin anarchist. I'm dead chuffed that the Poetry Stage has become an anti-mainstream mainstay of MPF. These days, I try to write about anger and hope. A punk fest is the perfect place for anger – but I also get a deep sense of hope, too. It warms my little punk heart that familiar faces return each year and pack out the room to hear words and stories. Newcomers welcome! It's the perfect place to chill between bands.

On Saturday, raconteur **Rob Steventon** will open the stage. Founder of the award-winning night Punk in Drublic Poetry, Rob's laugh-out-loud funny spoken word has a swish style. **TS Idiot** is a self-taught, self-deprecating and occasionally self-adhesive punk poet. They write (and shout) about queerness, community, mental health and the rising price of Freddos. Key issues. Then it's the return of the **open mic**, in the spirit of punk, all welcome from first-timers to old-handers.

On Sunday, spiky non-binary poet **Tonks** will try to rival their favourite gig ever: performed to two people and their dog outside Manchester's Urbis building. Next is **Zara Sehar**, a Muslim British-Pakistani poet who writes about class and the intricacies of the British-Asian diaspora. Finally, to close off, self-made underachiever **Jonny Fluffypunk** is celebrating 25 years of performing. Fusing the wonderfully hilarious with bittersweet disillusionment has made Jonny a mainstay of gigs, festivals and housing benefit offices.



# PODCASTS

Podcasts have been so well received at MPF in the past few years that we've had to move them to a bigger room! This year, you can go watch the live podcasts upstairs at The Salutation, next door to The Union. This is what we've got lined up for you:

**Weirdo Live** is a podcast produced by WEIRDO Zine & Collective, where they interview South Asian creatives and change-makers in the alternative scene to document and celebrate their work, inspiring the next generation. Join WEIRDO Collective member, Tabzy, for a panel-type interview with some MPF performers, where they discuss growing up desi and punk, as well as inclusivity within the scene.

**Pretty On The Inside** is back at MPF for the second time! Your favourite lo-fi podcast about women in the DIY scene and the history of women in music during the explosion of punk, grunge, Britpop and beyond. Let's hang out again!

**Mid Life Punk Podcast** is now in its 5th year. Even though the pandemic's over, Tom and Niallism's lockdown boredom project continues in earnest. They're still chatting rubbish to bands from around the world every week, still trying to navigate the halfway point of existence whilst still trying to be a punk, and they're still not taking themselves seriously. They're going for a brand new quiz format that you've DEFINITELY never seen before. It's time for Bastardmind.

Fuelled by anger and hope, the **Vandal Factory Podcast w/Millie Manders** is where art meets activism! Hosted by theatre-maker Natalie Quatermass and poet Henry Raby, expect passion, humour and heart as they discuss how to change the world one song at a time. This live recording will feature special guest rebel-rouser Millie Manders.

**Punk Rock Elite** is the world's only podcast about NOFX; it's gained over 20,000 downloads worldwide! It's hosted by comedians Red Redmond and Eddie French, who recently celebrated their 100th episode with a special guest interview from NOFX's drummer, Smelly. Now that NOFX have ridden into the sunset what's next for Punk Rock Elite? Pop down to The Salutation to find out.

**Punks in Pubs Podcast** is returning to Manchester Punk Festival 2025, bringing conversation, chaos, and a mic to the UK's best DIY punk festival. This year, they will be turning their attention to disability in the music scene – from access at venues to disabled representation on stage and in the crowd. They'll be talking about what the punk community is getting right – and where it needs to do better. Come down and be part of an honest conversation, stories of activism and life on the fringes... with a few beers along the way.



# SUNLINER-ONE OVER 8

## **A Great Notion**

Easy-core punx from Peterborough  
UK

FFO: The band your mate likes,  
Sunliner, Ducking Punches

**Sunday - 17:00 @ YES Basement**

## **A Void**

N'importe quoi.

FFO: Courtney Love, French baguettes  
and nausea (the feeling not the band)

**Sunday - 15:20 @ YES Basement**

## **Abergaz**

The only band from former Yugoslavia  
that is fronted by a trans woman.

FFO: Dead Kennedys, G.L.O.S.S., L7,  
Svetlanas, Shania Twain

**Sunday - 16:10 @ YES Basement**

## **Abraskadabra**

Fast melodic ska-punk from Brazil on  
their fourth album release tour.

FFO: Less Than Jake, Goldfinger, The  
Flatliners

**Saturday - 19:50 @ Gorilla**

## **ALLDEPENDS**

Queer banjo violence without borders.

FFO: Nomeansno, Tom Waits, Gogol  
Bordello/Minutemen, The Sewer Cats

**Friday - 23:50 @ Bread Shed**

## **Anna's Anchor**

Kind of indie, kind of punk band from  
Limerick, Ireland.

FFO: The National, Emperor X, Ireland  
& Hurling

**Saturday - 14:00 @ YES Pink Room**

## **Anti-Everything**

Postcolonial hardcore punk from the  
southern Caribbean.

FFO: Strike Anywhere, Bad Brains,  
Propagandhi, The Mighty Sparrow

**Sunday - 23:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **Arms & Hearts**

A silly two-piece band of the indie punk variety(ish).

FFO: The Gaslight Anthem, The Menzingers, Spanish Love Songs, Chris Farren

**Friday - 18:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Back Teeth**

Gruff dad punk just like gramps used to make.

FFO: Leatherface, Hot Water Music, Gunmoll, Samiam

**Sunday - 19:30 @ YES Basement**

### **Baldhead**

Ska-dub-punk band shouting about how the government is bad but dogs are good.

FFO: Inner Terrestrials, Jaya the Cat, Daniel Beddingfield

**Friday - 16:10 @ Bread Shed**

### **Batwölf**

Punk for the rockers, rock for the punkers.

FFO: Motörhead, Zeke, Ramones, rock 'n' roll

**Saturday - 23:15 @ YES Basement**

### **Belvedere**

Fast Furious Fun.

FFO: A Wilhelm Scream, Strung Out, Lagwagon

**Sunday - 19:40 @ The Union**

### **Bleach Brain**

Riot grrrl grunge.

FFO: The Distillers, Hole, The Exploited, Nirvana

**Saturday - 23:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **Bossmags**

Also celebrating 10 years – your go-to curio cabaretcore experience at MPF.

FFO: Oingo Boingo, Cardiacs, Mr Bungle, King Prawn

**Sunday - 16:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Bratakus**

Two sisters from the North of Scotland playing political punk.

FFO: The Distillers, Maid of Ace, Bikini Kill

**Saturday - 17:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Broadway Calls**

Poppy punk from the Pacific Northwest.

FFO: Greenday, Alkaline Trio, The Jesus & Mary Chain

**Friday - 17:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Bruise Control**

All pumpers, no dumpers.

FFO: Fugazi, Hives, Stiff Richards, Thin Lizzy

**Sunday - 15:40 @ The Union**

### **Brutalligators**

Your mum's favourite queer indie-punk band.

FFO: PUP, Spanish Love Songs, Los Campesinos!

**Sunday - 16:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Buds.**

Songs to make you smile in spite of your dread.

FFO: Drug Church, PUP, Jeff Rosenstock

**Sunday - 17:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Burnt Tapes**

Cutesy poppy boyband shit.

FFO: The Menzingers meets Wonder Years from Lidl

**Sunday - 23:50 @ Bread Shed**



### **Call Me Malcolm**

Yeah, we've got horns and no, we're not sorry about it.

FFO: Faintest Idea, Random Hand

**Friday - 21:00 @ Gorilla**

### **Captain Hotknives**

Mega boss man from Bradford.

FFO: Weed, acoustic commentary, '90s commercial dance.

**Sunday - 19:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Carne**

South Italy HC.

FFO: Social Distortion, Good Riddance, Raw Power

**Friday - 22:15 @ YES Basement**

### **Cherym**

Part of the new school of queer, LGBTQ+ indie-punk rock.

FFO: Blink 182, Bikini Kill, Dream Wife

**Saturday - 18:40 @ The Union**

### **Christmas**

Christmas are no strangers to failure and have come to terms with it!

FFO: Black Flag, Turbonegro, Comeback Kid

**Sunday - 18:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Coughin' Vicars**

Hyper-charged snotty pretty post-punk gloom rock.

FFO: Throwing Stuff, Throwing Muses, The Cult, Killing Joke

**Sunday - 15:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Crabs**

Scuttling sideways, generating an unusual racket.

FFO: Potatoes and pastry-based snacks

**Saturday - 13:40 @ YES Basement**

### **DeadWax**

UK nu-metal meets grime

FFO: Astroid Boys, The Prodigy, Rage Against The Machine

**Sunday - 00:15 @ YES Basement**

### **Death Trails**

Hard-hitting northern loudmouths

FFO: At the Drive-In, Fugazi, Capdown, Agent Orange

**Saturday - 16:10 @ YES Basement**

### **Diaz Brothers**

Big choruses, even bigger guitars.

FFO: Dag Nasty, Samiam, Hot Water Music, L\*\*\*\*\*face

**Saturday - 15:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **Dillinger Four**

Rattle rattle thunder clatter boom boom boom.

FFO: Dillinger Four

**Friday - 20:50 @ The Union**

### **Drunktank**

Skatepunkmetal - fast, melodic skate-punk with '80s metal riffs.

FFO: No Fun At All, Pennywise, Iron Maiden, Metallica

**Sunday - 15:40 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Eastfield**

Urban Train Punk.

FFO: Blyth Power, AnyMinuteNo, Headstone Horrors

**Friday - 17:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **Electric Press**

Hardcore punk band from Leeds.

FFO: Korn, Deftones, Slipknot, Converge, Turnstile

**Saturday - 14:00 @ The Union**

**Faintest Idea**

The band that Random Hand could have been.

FFO: Operation Ivy, The Filaments, Suicide Machines, NOT Random Hand

**Saturday - 21:00 @ Gorilla**

**Fair Do's**

Metal-influenced skate-punk.

FFO: Propagandhi, Strung Out, Belvedere, Intervals

**Sunday - 18:40 @ The Union**

**False Reality**

Thrash-influenced hardcore from London.

FFO: Speed, Trapped Under Ice, Sepultura, Stampin' Ground

**Friday - 19:50 @ Bread Shed**

**Fast Blood**

Fast Blood will rip the fucking eyeballs out of your head.

FFO: Descendents, White Lung, Hot Snakes, Drug Church, Fucked Up

**Saturday - 17:50 @ Gorilla**

**Feign**

Manchester chaotic heavy hardcore.

FFO: Incendiary, Nalls, Expire, Cowards, Converge

**Friday - 00:15 @ YES Basement**

**Filthy Militia**

London-based ska punk seven-piece.

FFO: Less Than Jake, Call Me Malcolm, The JB Conspiracy

**Saturday - 15:50 @ Gorilla**

**Follow Your Dreams**

Fast, angry, dissonant, fuzzy punks from Manchester.

FFO: Refused, Rolo Tomassi, Petrol Girls

**Friday - 17:00 @ Gorilla**

**For I Am**

Melodic punk rock straight from the heart.

FFO: Tsunami Bomb, New Found Glory

**Sunday - 14:50 @ YES Pink Room**

**Forever Unclean**

Party emo indiecore singing about good and bad dreams.

FFO: The Arteries, Gnarwolves, Hard Girls

**Sunday - 16:40 @ The Union**

**Franz Nicolay**

Musician and writer from New York.

FFO: Frank Turner, Mountain Goats

**Friday - 19:25 @ YES Pink Room**

**Gab De La Vega**

Italian singer-songwriter with a hardcore punk background.

FFO: Frank Turner, Against Me!, Green Day

**Sunday - 14:30 @ YES Basement**

**Gen and the Degenerates**

Mischievous spirit, unique sound, and tongue-in-cheek lyrics.

FFO: Blondie, LCD Soundsystem, Idles

**Sunday - 19:50 @ Bread Shed**

**GIRLBAND!**

A joyous, all-inclusive zone of empowerment.

FFO: The Gaslight Anthem, Sam Fender, Derry Girls

**Sunday - 15:50 @ Gorilla**

**GLU**

SPITEFUL SOUNDS FROM LDN.

FFO: Babes In Toyland, Kittle, Hole, L7

**Friday - 14:00 @ YES Pink Room**





Just before Saturday - 16:00 @ Gorilla

### **Grafteoke**

The punk rock karaoke extravaganza.  
Often imitated, never beaten.

FFO: Bangers (not the band)

**Saturday - 23:00 @ Rebellion**

### **Grail Guard**

Visceral hardcore punk with a social conscience.

FFO: The Chisel, Crass, Conflict,  
Gallows, Death By Stereo

**Sunday - 13:40 @ YES Basement**

### **Grandma's House**

Everything you love but nothing  
you've never heard before.

FFO: Big Special, IDLES, Goat Girl,  
Nirvana

**Saturday - 17:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Grazia**

Rock 'n' roll from London.

FFO: Not replying to emails.

**Saturday - 18:40 @ YES Basement**

### **Hard Skin**

Hard nuts and hard cunts.

**Friday - 18:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Harker**

A rapid blitz of fuzzy melodic punk  
rock from Brighton, UK.

FFO: Against Mel, The Gaslight  
Anthem, Alkaline Trio

**Saturday - 16:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Hell's Ditch**

High-energy, uplifting punk anthems  
with a message of resilience and  
hope.

FFO: Spanish Love Songs, Against  
Mel, The Gaslight Anthem

**Saturday - 18:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Helle**

Raucous sonic warfare.

FFO: The Oozes, Amyl and The  
Sniffers, L7, Witch Fever

**Saturday - 12:15 @ YES Basement**

### **In Evil Hour**

Melodic hardcore from the north east  
of England. Raging into the void.

FFO: AFI, Rise Against, Ignite

**Friday - 17:40 @ The Union**

### **Jake Martin**

Solo acoustic punk rocker searching the world for a capo he can lose.

FFO: Frank Turner, Beans On Toast, Skinny Lister, Ducking Punches  
**Saturday - 15:20 @ YES Basement**

### **Jawless**

Female fucking fronted hardcore punk.

FFO: Suicidal Tendencies, Terror, Lionheart, Isabel Pantoja  
**Sunday - 22:15 @ YES Basement**

### **Jodie Faster**

Playing short songs fast since 2016.

FFO: Youth Avoiders, Minor Threat, Dean Dirg  
**Saturday - 15:00 @ Gorilla**

### **Knife Club**

Leopard print and people who play in other TNS bands.

FFO: Revenge Of The Psychotronic Man, Haest, Casual Nausea, Snatch Game  
**Saturday - 17:40 @ The Union**

### **Le Rox**

Intense vocals with hardcore punk riffs.

FFO: The Distillers, Hole, Comeback Kid, Frank Carter  
**Saturday - 17:00 @ YES Basement**

### **Long Neck Lass**

Lo-fi emotional folk from the Garden State.

FFO: Adult Mom, Nana Grizol, Aimee Mann, Hop Along, Trust Fund  
**Friday - 18:40 @ YES Basement**

### **Los Fastidios**

Since 1991, street ska 'n' punk for joy 'n' fun against any discrimination.

FFO: Cock Sparrer, The Specials, The Housemartins  
**Sunday - 19:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Lunar Sounds**

The fierce and friendly girl-punk trio. DIY attitude with a turbocharged sound.

FFO: Sleater Kinney, The Runaways, The Raincoats  
**Friday - 17:00 @ YES Basement**

### **Mark Murphy And The Meds**

Pop punk from Liverpool.

FFO: Cute Lepers, Sonic Avenues, Teenage Bigfoot  
**Saturday - 18:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Martha May & The Mondays**

Fresh, orchestral post-punk.

FFO: Viagra Boys, Amyl and The Sniffers, Soft Play, The Last Dinner Party, Do Nothing  
**Friday - 17:50 @ YES Basement**

### **Mere Amore**

Do you want Amore?

FFO: Hole, Sonic Youth, Pixies  
**Friday - 15:40 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Mille Manders And The Shutup**

Political as fuck, bouncier than Tigger.

FFO: Stand Atlantic, Less Than Jake, Skunk Anansie, Scroobious Pip  
**Friday - 19:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Minimal Faff**

New punk trio from Manchester.

Catchy energetic chaos with minimal faff.

FFO: Bad Religion, Capdown, Not On Tour, Distillers, Wadeye  
**Sunday - 00:40 @ Bread Shed**

### **Misfortune Cookie**

Older, but not wiser.

FFO: Good times, drinking beers, getting older but not wiser  
**Saturday - 15:50 @ Bread Shed**



### **mudclub**

Jeff Buckley was reincarnated three times and gave the world mudclub.

FFO: Alanis Morissette, Fiona Apple, PJ Harvey, Sonic Youth

**Sunday - 17:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **NEXØ**

Frantic punk from Copenhagen.

FFO: Honningbarna, Night Fever, Idles

**Friday - 16:10 @ Gorilla**

### **No More Idols**

Rock 'n' roll with punk attitude.

FFO: Wadeye, UK Subs, Oxymoron

**Sunday - 18:40 @ YES Basement**

### **Nylon**

Steel City hardcore.

FFO: No Warning, Deal With It, Dirty Money, Outbreak

**Sunday - 18:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Oi Polloi**

100% anti-fascist street-crust and nonsense progressive Oi!

FFO: Icons Of Filth, Cockney Rejects, Crass

**Saturday - 19:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Onlooker**

Enough energy to power your nan's house.

FFO: Hives, Hot Snakes, Fugazi, ZZ Top

**Saturday - 16:30 @ YES Pink Room**

### **ONSIND**

Political punk from Durham.

FFO: Billy Bragg, Defiance, Ohio, Martha

**Sunday - 21:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **Other Half**

Three snivelling friends, playing it like they mean it.

FFO: Fugazi, Hot Snakes, Unwound, Pixies, Les Savy Fav

**Friday - 17:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Our Lives In Cinema**

Emotive London pop-punk and post-hardcore hybrid.

FFO: The Wonder Years, Four Year Strong, Coheed and Cambria

**Friday - 14:50 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Packers**

HONESTY & LOYALTY

FFO: Such Gold, Title Fight, Flatliners

**Sunday - 14:00 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Period Drama**

Spooky queer emo punks, mostly playing lesbians love songs.

FFO: PUP, Against Me!, Charli XCX

**Saturday - 19:30 @ YES Basement**

### **Perp Walk**

Egg Fried Chain.

FFO: BIB, Spy, Ceremony

**Friday - 17:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Pizzatramp**

Welsh hard man heavy metallers.

FFO: Proper Punk Bands

**Sunday - 17:40 @ The Union**

### **PREY**

Short, fast, blown-out hardcore punk.

FFO: Poison Idea, Capitalist

Casualties, Nausea, Heresy

**Friday - 15:20 @ YES Basement**

### **Pussy Liquor**

If Black Flag were The Powerpuff Girls.

FFO: Mr Blobby, Wesley Willis, John Barrowman

**Sunday - 18:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Raw Poo**

Raw Poo, raw punk, from the arse end of England!

FFO: Scatman John, Kajagoogoo,

Gargling Anal Fungus

**Friday - 23:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **Reason To Leave**

No nonsense skate-punk.

FFO: Pennywise, 88 Fingers Louie,

H2O, 98 Mute

**Friday - 16:10 @ YES Basement**

### **Redeemon**

Full-throttle Metalliska, now with added Northerner.

FFO: Voodoo Glow Skulls, Lamb of

God, Beat the Red Light

**Saturday - 16:40 @ The Union**

### **Relents**

From cradle to grave.

FFO: Hi-Standard, The Vandals, NOFX,

Blink 182

**Friday - 14:30 @ YES Basement**

### **Roughneck Riot**

Folk-punk but not shite.

FFO: Bad Religion, The Levellers, The Scratch

**Friday - 18:40 @ The Union**

### **Sadaxe**

Thunderous drum fills, rock 'n' roll guitars and earworm melodies.

FFO: Amyl and the Sniffers, Bikini Kill,

Motörhead, Thin Lizzy

**Saturday - 18:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Short Days**

Punk.

FFO: The Vicious, Observers,

Screeching Weasel

**Saturday - 22:15 @ YES Basement**

### **Single Mothers**

Canadian punks who broke up in 2009 and have been playing shows ever since.

FFO: Drug Church, White Lung,

Ceremony

**Friday - 18:50 @ Gorilla**

### **Skint Knees**

Your girl-gang besties delivering in-your-face political ire.

FFO: Bikini Kill, L7, Babes in Toyland,

Amyl and The Sniffers

**Friday - 13:40 @ YES Basement**

### **Smoke or Fire**

Emo-tinged post-hardcore from Fat Wreck, new music on the way.

FFO: Hot Water Music, Avail,

Propagandhi

**Saturday - 19:40 @ The Union**

### **Snatch Game**

Drag Race covers and camp bangers.

We're your dad's favourite band x

FFO: RuPaul's Drag Race, Chappell

Roan, Gaga

**Friday - 00:40 @ Bread Shed**

### **Sniffany & The Nits**

Deranged as they come.

FFO: Dead Kennedys, Screaming

Females, SPY

**Saturday - 17:50 @ YES Basement**

### **Stank Finger**

Soaring seaside ska-punk from Great Yarmouth.

FFO: Less Than Jake, Rancid, NOFX,

MXPX

**Saturday - 00:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **Straightline**

SkatePunkThrash will move your tash.

FFO: Strike Anywhere, Propagandhi,

Strung Out, Belvedere

**Saturday - 14:50 @ The Union**



### **Stress Positions**

Expect the unexpected in the kingdom of madness.

FFO: C.H.E.W, Violencia, Axe Rash, Mutant Strain, the HIRS Collective

**Saturday - 18:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Strung Out**

35 years of Strung Out!

FFO: Fast technical punk/metal

**Sunday - 20:50 @ The Union**

### **Sunliner**

Gruff, catchy, punk rock/indie punk from Leeds.

FFO: Hot Water Music, Against Me!, PUP, Bruce Springsteen

**Sunday - 14:00 @ The Union**

### **Supermilk**

Indie punk band from London.

FFO: XTC, Guided by Voices, Devo, B52s, Cheap Trick

**Friday - 15:00 @ The Union**

### **Talco**

Legendary Italian punk rock infused with ska, folk and Latin elements.

FFO: Mad Caddies, Ska-P, triumphant brass

**Sunday - 21:00 @ Gorilla**

### **Terrorpins**

Non-stop bangers.

FFO: Tim Lout, Roughneck Riot, Bruise Control

**Saturday - 14:50 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Thank**

Synth-driven anarcho-disco noise rock.

FFO: Show Me The Body, Future Of The Left, The Chinese Stars

**Friday - 16:30 @ YES Pink Room**

### **The Carolyn**

Sleep-deprived punk trio from Atlanta Georgia.

FFO: Lawrence Arms, The Menzingers, The Gaslight Anthem, Alkaline Trio

**Sunday - 17:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **The Chisel**

The Chisel are back to cause a bit of boover.

FFO: Big Cheese, High Vis, Chubby & The Gang

**Saturday - 21:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **The Domestics**

Fast-as-fuck East Anglian hardcore. Accept no substitutes.

FFO: Negative Approach, Gauze, Out Cold, Career Suicide

**Friday - 19:30 @ YES Basement**

### **The Empty Page**

Brash and uncompromising alt-punk for the greyest of skies and the toughest of times.

FFO: Pixies, Sonic Youth, Siouxsie & The Banshees, IDLES

**Saturday - 14:30 @ YES Basement**

### **The Menzingers**

Some of it was true.

FFO: Hot Water Music, The Flatliners, Iron Chic

**Saturday - 20:50 @ The Union**

### **The Restarts**

Punchy protest punk.

FFO: Chaos UK, Op Ivy, Casual Nausea, Call the Cops

**Friday - 21:00 @ Bread Shed**

### **The Sewer Cats**

High-energy fuzzy feminist fury.

FFO: The Stooges, Bikini Kill, Mudhoney, cats

**Sunday - 14:50 @ The Union**

### **The Slow Death**

Maximum G, C and D

FFO: Dillinger Four, Motörhead,

Townes Van Zandt

**Friday - 15:50 @ The Union**

### **The Winter Passing**

Feel good emo-punk from Ireland.

FFO: The Get Up Kids, Jimmy Eat

World, The Menzingers

**Sunday - 15:00 @ Gorilla**

### **Throwing Stuff**

Four lads, three cities, two continents.

FFO: Sloppy fast-core or fast sloppy-

~~core~~

**Saturday - 15:40 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Trust Fund**

The least punk band at MPF.

FFO: Elliot Smith, Phil Elverum, Kirsty

MacColl

**Saturday - 19:20 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Two Tonne Machete**

Feminist punk rage with a melody and a message.

FFO: Mannequin Pussy, Amyl and the

Sniffers, IDLES

**Sunday - 16:30 @ YES Pink Room**

### **Uzumaki**

Big fun rock.

FFO: Weezer, Teenage Fanclub, Pixies,

The Breeders

**Sunday - 17:50 @ YES Basement**

### **Vanilla Pod**

Old timers out of retirement!

FFO: Snuff, Samiam, Leatherface, Hot

Water Music, No Use For A Name

**Friday - 16:40 @ The Union**

### **Victim Unit**

Two aggy queers with a drum machine.

FFO: Agoraphobic Nosebleed, the

HIRS Collective, The Body

**Friday - 23:15 @ YES Basement**

### **Waterweed**

Melodic hardcore band from Osaka, Japan.

FFO: Please ask Rob Piper

**Saturday - 15:40 @ The Union**

### **Wonk Unit**

Return of the Croydon pop superstar sensation.

FFO: Descendents, Buzzcocks, Ian

Drury and The Blockheads

**Friday - 19:40 @ The Union**

### **Wreaking Joy**

Post-hardcore/power-violence from

Dundee. JCHC.

FFO: No Comply, Gay Panic Defence,

Nails, Rick Astley

**Sunday - 23:15 @ YES Basement**

### **WYRES**

Melodic punk rock from Manchester

with serious Myspace-era vibes.

FFO: Hot Water Music, The Flatliners,

Ways Away, Jimmy Eat World

**Saturday - 00:50 @ Bread Shed**

### **Xray Vez**

Girlie pop for the punks.

FFO: Kate Nash, Kirsty MacColl, Lily

Allen

**Sunday - 15:00 @ Bread Shed**



## THE UNION

**SUPERMILK**

15:00 - 15:30

**THE SLOW DEATH**

15:50 - 16:20

**VANILLA POD**

16:40 - 17:20

**IN EVIL HOUR**

17:40 - 18:20

**ROUGHNECK RIOT**

18:40 - 19:20

**WONK UNIT**

19:40 - 20:30

**DILLINGER FOUR**

20:50 - 22:00

## GORILLA

**NEXØ**

16:10 - 16:40

**FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS**

17:00 - 17:30

**BROADWAY CALLS**

17:50 - 18:30

**SINGLE MOTHERS**

18:50 - 19:30

**MILLIE MANDERS & THE**

**SHUTUP** 19:50 - 20:40

**CALL ME MALCOLM**

21:00 - 22:00

## THE BREAD SHED

**BALDHEAD**

16:10 - 16:40

**EASTFIELD**

17:00 - 17:30

**PERP WALK**

17:50 - 18:30

**HARD SKIN**

18:50 - 19:30

**FALSE REALITY**

19:50 - 20:40

**THE RESTARTS**

21:00 - 22:00

**RAW POD**

23:00 - 23:30

**ALL DEPENDS**

23:50 - 00:20

**SNATCH GAME**

00:40 - 01:20

**MPF IS BURNING -  
SNATCH GAME AFTERMATH**  
01:20 - 03:00

## YES PINK ROOM

GLU  
14:00 - 14:30

OUR LIVES IN CINEMA  
14:50 - 15:20

WERE AMORE  
15:40 - 16:10

THANK  
16:30 - 17:00

OTHER HALF  
17:20 - 18:00

ARMS & HEARTS  
18:20 - 19:00

FRANZ NICOLAY  
19:25 - 20:10

## YES BASEMENT

SKINT KNEES  
13:40 - 14:10

RELENTS  
14:30 - 15:00

PREY  
15:20 - 15:50

REASON TO LEAVE  
16:10 - 16:40

LUNAR SOUNDS  
17:00 - 17:30

MARTHA MAY & THE  
MONDAYS 17:50 - 18:20

LONG NECK LASS  
18:40 - 19:10

THE DOMESTICS  
19:30 - 20:10

CARNE  
22:15 - 22:55

VICTIM UNIT  
23:15 - 23:55

FEIGN  
00:15 - 00:55



## REBELLION

OASIS  
23:00 - 23:45

AVRIL LAVIGNE  
00:00 - 00:30

PAPA ROACH  
00:45 - 01:15

DJ  
01:15 - 03:00



## THE UNION

ELECTRIC PRESS

14:00 - 14:30

STRAIGHTLINE

14:50 - 15:20

WATERWEED

15:40 - 16:20

REDEEMON

16:40 - 17:20

KNIFE CLUB

17:40 - 18:20

CHERYM

18:40 - 19:20

SMOKE OR FIRE

19:40 - 20:30

THE MENZINGERS

20:50 - 22:00

## GORILLA

JODIE FASTER

15:00 - 15:30

FILTHY MILITIA

15:50 - 16:30

HARKER

16:50 - 17:30

FAST BLOOD

17:50 - 18:30

SADAXE

18:50 - 19:30

ABRASKADABRA

19:50 - 20:40

FAINTEST IDEA

21:00 - 22:00

## THE BREAD SHED

DIAZ BROTHERS

15:00 - 15:30

MISFORTUNE COOKING

15:50 - 16:30

MARK MURPHY AND  
THE MEDS 16:50 - 17:30

BRATAKUS

17:50 - 18:30

STRESS POSITIONS

18:50 - 19:30

OI POLLOI

19:50 - 20:40

THE CHISEL

21:00 - 22:00

BLEACH BRAIN  
23:00 - 23:40

STANK FINGER  
00:00 - 00:30

WYRES  
00:50 - 01:20

P-ROCK PARTY  
01:30 - 03:00

# Saturday

## YES DIN ROOM

CROSS WORKSHOP  
12:00 - 13:00

ANNA'S ANCHOR  
14:00 - 14:30

TERRORFUGS  
14:50 - 15:20

THROWING STUFF  
15:40 - 16:10

ONLOOKER  
16:30 - 17:00

GRANDMA'S HOUSE  
17:20 - 18:00

HELL'S DITCH  
18:20 - 19:00

TRUST FUND  
19:20 - 20:10

## YES BASEMENT

GRABS  
13:40 - 14:30

THE EMPTY PAGE  
14:50 - 15:00

JAKE MARTIN  
15:20 - 15:50

DEATH TRAILS  
16:10 - 16:40

LE ROX  
17:00 - 17:50

SNIFFANY & THE  
NTS 17:50 - 18:20

GRAZIA  
18:40 - 19:10

PERIOD DRAMA  
19:30 - 20:10

SHORT DAYS  
22:15 - 22:55

BATWÖLF  
23:15 - 23:55

HELLE  
00:15 - 00:55

## REBELLION

GRAFTEOKE  
23:00 - 00:00

THE POGUES (BAR  
DUST) 00:20 - 01:00

THE RAMONES  
01:20 - 01:50

DJ  
01:50 - 03:00



## THE UNION

SUNLINER

14:00 - 14:30

THE SEWER CATS

14:50 - 15:20

BRUISE CONTROL

15:40 - 16:20

FOREVER UNCLEAN

16:40 - 17:20

PIZZATRAMP

17:40 - 18:20

FAIR DO'S

18:40 - 19:20

BELVEDERE

19:40 - 20:30

STRUNG OUT

20:50 - 22:00

## GORILLA

THE WINTER PASSING

15:00 - 15:30

GIRLBAND!

15:50 - 16:30

BRUTALLIGATORS

16:50 - 17:30

BUDS

17:50 - 18:30

CHRISTMAS

18:50 - 19:30

LOS FASTIDIOS

19:50 - 20:40

TALCO

21:00 - 22:00

## THE BREAD SHED

XRAY VEZ

15:00 - 15:30

COUGHIN VICARS

15:50 - 16:30

BOSSMAGS

16:50 - 17:30

MUDCLUB

17:50 - 18:30

PUSSY LIQUOR

18:50 - 19:30

GEN AND THE  
DEGENERATES

19:50 - 20:40

ONSINO

21:00 - 22:00

ANTI-EVERYTHING

23:00 - 23:30

BURNT TAPES

23:50 - 00:20

MINIMAL FAFF

00:40 - 01:20

POP PARTY FOR  
PUNKS 01:20 - 03:00

## YES PINK ROOM

PACKERS

14:00 - 14:50

FOR I AM

14:50 - 15:20

DRUNKTANK

15:40 - 16:10

TWO TONE MACHETE

16:30 - 17:00

THE CAROLYN

17:20 - 18:00

NYLON

18:20 - 19:00

CAPTAIN HOTKNIVES

19:20 - 20:10

## YES BASEMENT

GRAL GUARD

13:40 - 14:10

DAB DE LA VEGA

14:30 - 15:00

A VOD

15:20 - 15:50

ABERGAZ

16:10 - 16:40

A GREAT NOTION

17:00 - 17:30

UZUMAKI

17:50 - 18:20

NO MORE IDOLS

18:40 - 19:10

BACK TEETH

19:30 - 20:10

JAWLESS

22:15 - 22:55

WREAKING JOY

23:15 - 23:55

DEADWAX

00:15 - 00:55

SUNDAY

## REBELLION

THE PRODIGY

23:00 - 23:35

SLIPKNOT (LIPSKNOT)

23:55 - 00:25

NOFX

00:45 - 01:15

DJ

01:20 - 03:00



# THE SALUTATION

## FRIDAY

PRETTY ON THE  
INSIDE 13.30

MID LIFE PUNK  
14.40

VANDAL FACTORY  
W/MILLIE MANDERS  
15.50

PUNKS IN PUBS  
17.00

## SATURDAY

WEIRDO PODCAST  
13.00

ROB STEVENTON  
14.10

TS IDIOT  
14.35

POETRY OPEN MIC  
15.00

RED REDMOND  
15.30

JENNY HART  
15.45

THICK RICHARD  
16.00

RED REDMOND  
16.20

KATIE MITCHELL  
16.30

EDDIE FRENCH  
17.00

ANDREW O'NEILL  
17.30

## SUNDAY

PUNK ROCK ELITE  
PODCAST 13.00

TONKS  
14.10

ZARA SEHAR  
14.35

JOHNNY  
FLUFFYPUNK 15.00

SULLY O'SULLIVAN  
15.30

MAXINE WADE  
15.45

DEAN COUGHLIN  
16.00

SULLY O'SULLIVAN  
16.20

TONY BASNETT  
16.35

ROB MULHOLLAND  
16.50

EVAN DESMERAIS  
17.05

MICK FERRY  
17.25

# MPF 2025 AFTER-PARTIES

## REBELLION THE COVERS PARTY

### FRIDAY

OASIS

AVRIL LAVIGNE • PAPA ROACH

### SATURDAY

GRAFTEOKE

THE POGUES • THE RAMONES

### SUNDAY

THE PRODIGY

SLIPKNOT • NOFX

## YES BASEMENT

### FRIDAY

CARNE

VICTIM UNIT • FEIGN

### SATURDAY

SHORT DAYS

BATWÖLF • HELLE

### SUNDAY

JAWLESS

WREAKING JOY • DEADWAX

## THE BREAD SHED

### FRIDAY

RAW POO • ALLDEEPENDS • SNATCH GAME

MPF IS BURNING: THE SNATCH GAME PARTY



### SATURDAY

P-ROCK PARTY

WITH BLEACH BRAIN • STANK FINGER • WYRES



### SUNDAY

ANTI-EVERYTHING • BURNT TAPES

MINIMAL FAFF • POP PARTY FOR PUNKS





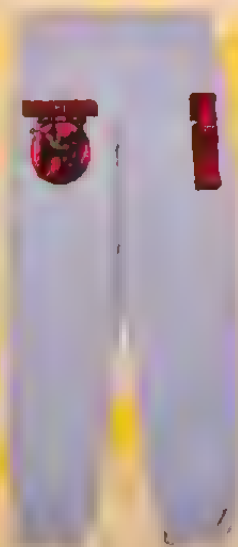


We've got you covered with a hot range of MPF merch this year. As well as tees and hoodies there are joggers, socks, sunnies, badges, hats, totes and patches.

Where possible, we aim to use sustainable materials and sources, so this year the majority of tees and long sleeves are printed on No Sweat garments.

You'll find official MPF merchandise in the foyer at The Union near the wristband exchange.

# STREETWEAR





DEANSGATE STATION

WINTWORTH STREET

REBELLION

GORILLA

HIGHER CAMBRIDGE STREET

THE UNION TO THE BREAD SHED: 6 MINUTES WALK

THE UNION TO GORILLA: 11 MINUTES WALK

GORILLA TO THE BREAD SHED: 9 MINUTES WALK

GORILLA TO REBELLION: 7 MINUTES WALK

MPPF 2025

THE



LA

EST

OXFORD ROAD STATION

YES

HULME STREET

OXFORD ROAD

MANCUNIAN WAY

THE  
BREAD  
SHED

SANDBAR

THE FLOUR  
& FLAGON

GROSVENOR  
STREET

THE SALUTATION

UNION



# The Propagation Station

## Recording Studio

Where ideas grow

Past clients include...



**FAIR DO'S**

**BLAGGED**

**SADAXE**



[thepropagationstation.co.uk](http://thepropagationstation.co.uk)

[propagation.station.studio@gmail.com](mailto:propagation.station.studio@gmail.com)

# REAL MUSIC FOR REAL PEOPLE

Feature documentary about the TV channel P-Rock Tv. Featuring interviews with band members of King Prawn, Whitmore, [spunge], Not Katies, Soul Room Six, Solabeat Alliance, Graveltrap, 4it, Fingers, Snuff and more...

# p-rock

THE DOC

KEEP UP TO DATE ON ITS RELEASE AT  
**PROCKTHEDOC.CO.UK**



**TNSRECORDS HAVE RELEASED  
MUSIC FOR THE FOLLOWING  
BANDS WHO ARE PLAYING AT MPF.  
CHECK THEM OUT:**



# FRIDAY

**NEXO - GORILLA - 16:10**  
**VANILLA POD - THE UNION - 16:40**  
**FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS - GORILLA - 17:00**  
**ROUGHNECK RIOT - THE UNION - 18:40**  
**THE DOMESTICS - YES BASEMENT - 19:30**  
**ALLDEPENDS - THE BREAD SHED - 23:50**

# SATURDAY

**ELECTRIC PRESS - THE UNION - 14:00**  
**JODIE FASTER - GORILLA - 15:00**  
**THROWING STUFF - YES PINK ROOM - 15:40**  
**KNIFE CLUB - THE UNION - 17:40**  
**FAINTEST IDEA - GORILLA - 21:00**

# SUNDAY

**THE SEWER CATS - THE UNION - 14:50**  
**BRUISE CONTROL - THE UNION - 15:40**  
**PIZZATRAMP - THE UNION - 17:40**  
**CHRISTMAS - GORILLA - 18:50**

**MEMBERS OF TNS ACTS WILL FEATURE IN  
THE FOLLOWING COVER SETS AT REBELLION:**

**OASIS (FRIDAY - 23:00)**  
**THE PRODIGY (SUNDAY - 23:00)**  
**SLIPKNOT (SUNDAY - 23:55)**

**CHECK OUT OUR DISTRO AT THE WRISTBAND  
EXCHANGE OR VISIT [TNSRECORDS.CO.UK](http://TNSRECORDS.CO.UK)**

**SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT MUSIC SINCE 2003**



# TNSRECORDS

## RECENT RELEASES



**VECTLOS**  
AFTRYK  
(12")

**ELECTRIC PRESS**  
BLINDED BY  
IGNORANCE AND  
SOMEWHAT  
HYSTERICAL  
(12"/CD)



**THE SEWER CATS**  
OBNOXIOUS  
(12"/CD)



**PIZZATRAMP**  
THE LAST SUPPER  
(12"/CD/TAPE)

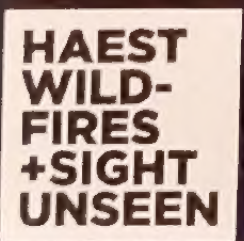
**RITUAL ERROR**  
DIAL IN THE GHOST  
(12"/CD/TAPE)



**ALLDEPENDS**  
NO SHALLOW ENDS  
(12"/CD)

**CHRISTMAS**  
FEAR OF ROMANCE  
(12"/TAPE)

**REBEL RIOT**  
TO... DEAR COMRADE  
(12"/CD)



**HAEST**  
WILDFIRES + SIGHT  
UNSEEN  
(12")

**JODIE FASTER**  
SAINT LUNDI  
(12")

**ALL THIS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE  
AVAILABLE FROM TNSRECORDS.CO.UK  
AND AT THE MPF WRISTBAND EXCHANGE**



# THANK YOU

That's it for this decade of unrivalled excellence. Excellence from all of you for choosing us to be your annual festival and making this event what it is. We hope you've made the most of it.

It's so cool to still be a thing. We feel privileged to have worked with some of the bands we grew up listening to, to have welcomed musicians to Manchester from literally the other side of the world, to be award winners (wtf?!), to be able to see so many friends, and good bands on bigger stages. Most of all, it's so cool to be able to hang out with you.

Honestly, a very humble 'nice one' from all of us.  
It's been proper mint.

Tickets for 2026 are already on sale. Should we just do another 10 years, or what?

MPF x

@mcrpunkfest

@au\_gigs

@tnsrecords

@movingnorthpresents





# MANCHESTER PUNK FESTIVAL 2025



10

YEARS OF  
MANCHESTER  
PUNK FESTIVAL